

Pravda Says CIA Efforts Misuse Student Exchange

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[Moscow Bureau of The Sun]

Moscow, March 1—The Central Intelligence Agency was accused today by Pravda of attempting to "wreck" the Soviet-United States cultural and scientific exchange program by interfering in the selection and training of students and professors and requesting espionage work of those who come here.

In a long article entitled "Another Page in the Dossier of the CIA Scandal," the Soviet Communist party newspaper closely connected the CIA with the Interuniversity Committee on Travel Grants which organizes the exchange program for the United States Government.

Use Of Agents Asserted

As one of its charges the article said that the committee employed CIA agents to fill "key positions" in its summer training program at Indiana University for exchange students bound for the Soviet Union.

The United States Embassy declined to comment on the article pending the completion of a study of CIA operations ordered by President Johnson two weeks ago when the controversy over CIA aid to student and other groups began.

In citing some "examples," Pravda named two former exchange professors and a professor directing the program and nine former exchange students as having been involved in CIA activities in the Soviet Union.

Professors And Students

The United States Embassy confirmed that two of the professors and seven of the students named had been in the exchange program here.

A spokesman said that no one at the Embassy knew of the two other students cited by Pravda and that there were no records here of their participation in the

exchange program, which began in 1958.

The Pravda article seemed designed to exploit the CIA dispute in the United States.

Despite the accusations there was no firm suggestion that the Kremlin desired to end the exchange program because of alleged CIA involvement.

At two points in the article Pravda said that many American students sent here resist CIA recruitment and come with the sole desire to study in a Communist country.

As the major theme the article charged the CIA with attempting to "displace the lofty cause of cultural and scientific exchange for the dirty cause of espionage."

"Fair, Means And Foul"

The CIA tries "by fair means and foul to involve in espionage work the largest possible number of American students in the Soviet Union," the newspaper added.

Oversaw Yevtushenko Tour

Professor Albert Todd, identified as former director of the Inter University Committee's summer program, was described by Pravda as an "old CIA agent" who had been expelled from Czechoslovakia for espionage and sent here in 1954 on CIA recommendation to participate in the exchange program.

Todd, on the faculty of Queen's College in New York, organized the recent United States tour of Yevgeny Yevtushenko, the Russian poet.

Pravda also referred to a man named Edward Keenan whom it identified as another "old CIA agent" and associate of Todd's in the summer training program.

Keenan came here in 1958 as an exchange student under CIA auspices and was subsequently expelled, Pravda said.

Others Named In Article

Others mentioned, with some account of their spying activities, in the article, which filled three columns of Pravda were Michael Luther, said to have been sent here by the CIA as an exchange student.

Donald Leash, described as a graduate of Naval Intelligence School who came here as an exchange student and who later served at the United States Embassy until his expulsion last year for subversive activities.

Geology Student

Martin Mallia, identified as a professor at the University of California and an "old CIA hand."

Arthur Sprague, said to be a graduate of Military Intelligence School.

John Adams, a geology student.

Edward Morrell, a law student.

Martin Lopez-Morillas, an exchange student who hastily left the Soviet Union recently. The Embassy said he left February 3 but declined to state the reasons.

Alfred Rieber and David Mackenzie, two former exchange students who were said to be CIA agents who debriefed American students in Paris returning from the Soviet Union.

Presence Noted By Embassy

Of this group the Embassy confirmed the previous presence in the Soviet Union of Todd, Leash, Adams, Morrell, Lopez-Morillas, Rieber and Mackenzie.

Pravda also said that Professor Robert F. Byrnes, chairman of the Interuniversity Committee, came here recently and tried to "sow suspicion and distrust of Soviet citizens" among the American exchange students.

Byrnes was in the Soviet Union from January 31 until February 5, the Embassy said.

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